

## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended)      A computer-implemented method for identifying a file system element for restoration comprising:
  - receiving a request to restore a file system element;
  - determining an offset, from a beginning of a collection of records, indicating where a record associated with the file system element is located within [[a]] the collection of records, wherein:
    - the record includes metadata related to stored data to be used to restore the file system element; and
    - the offset varies in accordance with the lengths of other records in the collection of records, if any, that are located before said record; and
  - using the determined offset to retrieve the record from the collection of records on a storage device.
2. (Previously presented)      The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the type of file system element being restored.
3. (Previously presented)      The method of claim 2, wherein a most significant bit indicates the type of file system element being restored.
4. (Original)      The method of claim 3, wherein the most significant bit is stored in a table.
5. (Previously presented)      The method of claim 2, wherein one type of file system element is a file.
6. (Previously presented)      The method of claim 2, wherein a file metadata file includes a collection of records for file system objects that are files.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein one type of file system element is a directory.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein a directory metadata file includes a collection of records for file system objects that are files.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata includes administrative information.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata includes permissions.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata includes a value that uniquely identifies the file system element associated with the file system element.
13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the record is a first record and determining an offset includes retrieving a second record associated with the file system element being restored, that includes the offset of the first record.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the offset is stored in a table.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the file system element is a file.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the file system element is a directory.
17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a second offset of a second record associated with the record.
18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the association of the record with the file system element occurs via an inode.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the association of the record with the file system element occurs via a value that uniquely identifies the file system element.

20. (Currently amended) A system for identifying a file system element for restoration comprising:

a processor configured to:

receive a request to restore a file system element;

determine an offset, from a beginning of a collection of records, indicating where a record associated with the file system element is located within ~~[[a]]~~ the collection of records, wherein;

the record includes metadata related to stored data to be used to restore the file system element; and

the offset varies in accordance with the lengths of other records in the collection of records, if any, that are located before said record; and

use the determined offset to retrieve the record from the collection of records; and

~~a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory provides instructions~~ a storage device on which the collection of records is stored.

21. (Currently amended) A computer program product for identifying a file system element for restoration, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

receiving a request to restore a file system element;

determining an offset, from a beginning of a collection of records, indicating where a record associated with the file system element is located within ~~[[a]]~~ the collection of records, wherein;

the record includes metadata related to stored data to be used to restore the file system element; and

the offset varies in accordance with the lengths of other records in the collection of records, if any, that are located before said record; and

using the determined offset to retrieve the record from the collection of records.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the record has a variable length.